



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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INTERIOR'S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COMPLETES NEW RECREATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY

The Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service has adopted a new Recreational Fisheries Policy, "Fisheries-USA", agency director John F. Turner announced today.

"Fisheries-USA is a big step forward for the Service and this Nation's fishery resources. It's what we need to assure a bright future for recreational angling in the 1990's and the century ahead."

The Fish and Wildlife Service, which led an initiative to develop the comprehensive National Recreational Fisheries Policy in 1988, selected the name Fisheries-USA for its policy to underscore that its fisheries programs are active across the country. The USA in the policy title also serves as an acronym for Usability, Sustainability and Action, to represent the Service's goals for recreational fisheries.

Turner said completion of the Service Policy is an important step in emphasizing the role of fisheries in the Service. "Fisheries-USA stresses that all Service fishery related efforts will consider recreational fisheries in their daily activities," Turner said. "With the demand for recreational fishing expected to increase by 40 percent by the year 2030, the Service must join other government, industry and conservation organizations to actively address the future of recreational fisheries and the habitats upon which they depend."

Some of the most visible benefits of Fisheries-USA will be associated with improving recreational fisheries opportunities on the 90-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System. Other important improvements will occur for aquaculture, fisheries assistance, enhancement, law enforcement, education and information transfer, and federal aid.

Copies of Fisheries-USA are available free of charge by contacting Dave McDaniel, Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240; phone: 703/358-1878.